THE LEMON GROVE REVIEW

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Bomb Squad

How East County keeps them busy

by Jason Williams

On a quiet Sunday afternoon in December, actors prepared for the final performance of "Solid Gold Cadillac" at Lamplighters theater in La Mesa. As patrons filed into the auditorium, lighting designer David Young discovered a black briefcase lying in the trash can in front of the theater.

The explosives division was called in and the theater was evacuated while they checked the device to determine whether or not it contained explosives.

"It was there last night," said House Manager Judy Hughes. "It's probably nothing, but this time of year is bad."

Hughes said she had seen the box the night before and disregarded it, thinking perhaps it was something someone had stolen and then thrown away. In the theater's 61 years, only three performances, including this one, had been delayed or canceled.

The first was for a sick actress and the second for asbestos.

Actors and audience members gathered outside the theater behind yellow danger tape and waited for the results.

It turned out to be nothing more than an empty suitcase, the type of hoax or false alarm that comprises 25 percent of calls received by Sgt. Conrad Grayson of the county Sheriff's Arson and Explosives Division.

Grayson, however, seemed to think the caution was wise.

"There are too many real ones out there," he said. "Last week we had 11 live ones."

The Lamplighters' show went on, beginning a half-hour late and closed an excellent run.

East County leads the San Diego area in incidents of bombs and explosive devices found, with North County starting to catch up, said Ron Reina, public affairs officer for the Sheriff's Department..

According to 1998 statistics, East County had 175 incidents, 75 percent of which were actual bombs. That's 35 percent of San Diego County's 500 incidents for the year — a new record, Reina said.

"Historically East County has always been high, particularly Santee, Lakeside and El Cajon," he said.

Grayson, said it has a lot to do with the semi-rural regions which mark sections of East County, providing a location for those individuals making bombs to test them with less likelihood of being reported.

Bombs are most notably left on school grounds. Many are created by kids and far outnumber things left in dumpsters or near office buildings 3to 1, Reina said.

"The last major bombing was at El Cajon Valley High School handball courts, a very large pipe bomb on Easter Sunday," said Grayson. "We've had many bombs on campuses — it's ongoing."

The Easter bomb came only five months after another bomb exploded on the El Cajon Valley campus, sending out shockwaves that were felt several blocks away.

Sixteen days into 1998, students at Valhalla High School in Rancho San Diego were evacuated following the discovery of a chemical bomb which exploded in a hallway trash can. No one was injured in the noon blast, which came from a two-liter soda pop bottle containing a mixture of chemicals.

A second chemical bomb was discovered and actually handled by a student. Teachers told the student to return the bomb to the can, where the bomb squad disarmed it.

A 15-year-old La Mesa boy was arrested in connection with a March 13 dry-ice bomb, which exploded on the Fletcher Hills Elementary School playground. The playground was empty during the 11:15 a.m. explosion, which was heard by school officials but not recognized as coming from the grounds.

Two out of three bombs found in April within a five-day period in Santee turned out to be extremely dangerous pipe bombs, not unlike the one discovered on the El Cajon Valley campus.

Karen Degischer, principal at Santana High School, said the school has received phone-in threats to which they responded with "extreme caution." As to actual devices on school grounds, however, Degischer said she has no knowledge.

El Capitan High School officials join Degischer in recalling no notable bomb threats in their area.

Grayson's bomb squad only responds when an actual device is suspected or found. They receive written reports on phone threats.

"We have our share of hoaxes," he said. "Over half are real, though we do have a lot of hoaxes."

Sheriffs say a common bomb used these days is the plastic bottle bomb. This bomb consists of an explosive contained in a seemingly innocent two-liter bottle, with the same explosive impact as a military hand grenade.

Residents should also be wary of all kinds of both metal and plastic pipes which can be made into incredibly destructive explosives, sheriffs say.

These devices can be, but are not always, distinguishable by fuses or wrapping with nails, but no suspected device should ever be handled to look for these telltale signs.

Means of ignition vary between devices. Some use electrical ignition or fire-cracker like fuses. Detonation can occur through lit fuses, an electrical charge or sometimes a mercury switch, which causes the device to explode when someone picks it up.

The methods used by the bomb squad on the scene are called "Render Safe Procedures," and are never discussed in the name of the safety and protection of those officers using them.

A good rule when dealing with suspicious devices is to back off at least 100 feet and call for competent help. What looks like a harmless bit of pipe or bottle can be very deadly and should be touched only by an expert. Bombs come in all sizes and shapes and are amazingly simple to construct.

Sheriffs also warn citizens not to use hand-held radios or cell phones within 100 feet of a device, for fear of accidental detonation. Anyone wanting to use a cell phone to call for help should move a safe distance away before dialing.

East County residents are reminded to be cautious living in a high-incident area, although walking on egg shells is not exactly necessary. Any suspicious devices should not be tampered with — that's why there's a bomb squad.

A black briefcase found in a trash can near Lamplighters Theater turned out to be an empty briefcase, not a bomb. More than 100 real bombs, however, were found in East County in 1998.

Photo by Rebekah Thomas

IRS guest speakers looking for audience

If you are confused about taxes, the tax experts want to talk to you.

The IRS Southern California District Speakers Bureau program can provide an interesting and knowledgeable speaker for your non-profit organization, club, association, educational institution or tax practitioner group.

This year, the IRS has much to talk about: a new organization, new mission, sweeping tax law changes and renewed emphasis on customer service and quality. All your organization needs to do is to contact the IRS Speakers Bureau with a date, time and location.

Speech topics include, but are not limited to: tax law changes, audit and collection processes, child care, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), criminal investigations, employee vs. independent contractor, abusive trusts, small business, international issues, and payroll tax issues.

Speakers are available year round and there is no charge.

To request an IRS speaker, contact the IRS Southern California District at (949) 360-2103.

Arbor group to give away trees

Ten free American redbud trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during February 1999.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

Redbuds have clusters of rosy pink flowers in spring, and dark green summer leaves turning to yellow in the fall.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between March 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a $10 contribution to: Ten Free Redbud Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410 by Feb. 28.

'Romeo and Juliet' has heaping portion of passion

by Greg Eichelberger

A tepid romance, no matter how well done everything else is, can ruin the evening. After all, this is *the* quintessential love story.

Perhaps the main thing to look for when critiquing "Romeo and Juliet," one of Shakespeare's (or Sir Francis Bacon's or the 17th Earl of Essex's) most passionate and timeless (remember the plot of "West Side Story"?) plays, is the chemistry between the leads.

You want to see the feelings of amour running off the stage and dripping onto the seat like great vats of maple syrup. I like my R & J thick with true emotion, a heaping mound of open-mouthed necking and a large side order of hot, steaming lust.

Octad-One's newest release is directed by Eastie Award winner Danny Campbell and marks the first time Shakespeare has been performed at this theater.

It also satisfies that primal urge in me - the urge to believe that the two actually *like* each other, not just tolerate each other for three hours and then go about their merry ways.

Jerry Urick, who last appeared in the Lakeside venue as Helen Keller's step-brother in "The Miracle Worker" and Laura Arnold, a lawyer by day (although that shouldn't be held against her) and a thespian by night, have genuine feelings for one another, and it shows.

Boy, does it show. Even in the dress rehearsal these two were giving off enough heat to warm the first three rows.

"We've been friends for a long time," said Arnold, who played Urick's twin sister during last summer's "Twelfth Night" in El Cajon. "All of the passion you see is pretty much real."

Urick, a resident of Lemon Grove, who has appeared in a half a dozen Shakespeare productions, including "King Lear," "MacBeth" and "Henry IV," concurred, saying that he and Arnold were really close and the love scenes were an extension of that friendship.

Both then commented how Campell's direction was a major key, but I kept thinking of how their steamy on-stage relationship made it much more real for me.

Then, of course, there's the *acting*. The trick with the Bard's writing is to make it come alive for contemporary audiences. This isn't achieved with moving the timeline up to late 19th century Russia. And, it isn't enough just to recite the words like a George Arliss or Edwin Booth.

One has to give the proper expression, inflection and meaning to the dialogue. Both Urick and Arnold are above board in this effort and do a wonderful job as the star-crossed lovers.

This translates especially well in their attraction to one another and their frustration in the face of hopeless circumstances and inter-family warfare. And while they certainly don't look like the 14-year-olds Sir William originally had in mind, it's all right. Few productions have remained faithful to their ages, anyhow.

The main support comes from Romeo's best friend, the ribald Mercutio (Jeff Miller, who also choreographed the sword fight scenes); his cousin, Benvolio (Dan Zisko) and Juliet's nurse (Sandra Kraus).

Miller, with flashes of bawdy wit, yet loving concern for his pal, exhibits an unfettered gem of a performance. He bounds across the stage with unlimited exuberance and Devil-may-care demeanor. He's a joy to watch, but, as those familiar with the play know, he isn't around for very long.

Krause, on the other hand, is a bit more subdued. Nevertheless, she carries off the role as Juliet's mother confessor and protector brilliantly.

Jerry Urick (Romeo) and Laura Arnold (Juliet) say the passion audiences see onstage between them is real. *Photo by Greg Eichelberger*

Others who lend a hand include Winona McNitt (Lady Capulet and designer of the costumes), David Matthews (Lord Capulet), Lizette Kent (Lady Montague/servant), Vincent Baca (Lord Montague/chorus), Tom Peters (Friar Laurence), Derek Teaney (The Prince), Gregory Scott (Tybalt), Richard Baird (Gregory/first watch/Apothecary), and Eastie Award recipients Layla Stuckey (Balthasar) and Andy Boutelle (Paris), among others.

All are competent, but only a few stand out as true pacesetters. As to the nuts and bolts of the operation, this venue, while perfect for one-set parlor dramas and light farces, was never intended to support such a population as this play entails.

With such a large cast and such a tiny stage, it was incumbent upon Campbell and his set builders to come up with a way to encompass all of the action without giving the actors a feeling of claustrophobia.

A double-deck concept was utilized and saves a great amount of room, allowing the performers to utter their lines without being shoulder to shoulder.

A few sword fights, and an exit and entrance or two spill over into the first row. But overall, the design is a lifesaver for this particular production.

"I like to think of myself as an actor's director," said Campbell, who just finished a run as Felix Unger in Octad's "The Odd Couple."

"I give them the parameters of the script and allow them to come up with their own unique ways of bringing their characters to life. A lot also depends on the individuals and their parts. What Jeff (Miller) did with Mercutio obviously could not be done with Bob (White - Father John/Old Capulet). I have to draw the line somewhere."

He went on to praise the ensemble, as well as the crew (Melissa Gorse, Lauren Merkle, Lessa Host, Jessica Hillis, Wayne Erreca, Charles Finn, Sarah Hernadez, Heath Hollensbe, Karyn Searcy, Karen Merkel and Phebe Burnham) for making this such an enjoyable experience.

While not expecting really big box office, he is confident in his colleagues to put on a really great show.

"I'm very excited about this production," he concluded. "I think we have a great group here."

"Romeo And Juliet" will be performed each Friday and Saturday (7 p.m.) and Sunday (2 p.m.) through Feb. 28 at the Octad-One Playhouse, 10009 Maine Avenue in Lakeside). For ticket prices and other information, call 561-9823.

Letters to the Editor

Dirty water talk

There has been a lot of dirty water talk going around lately. I'm getting scared. Something has to be done to put a stop to it.

The city of San Diego's plan to turn toilet water into drinking water could be considered safe enough IF the clean toilet water is used only for landscaping and industrial needs as suggested by the county's Science Advisory Board.

The enormous amount of water used for purposes other than domestic consumption would be saved. This would have the effect of supplementing the county's domestic water supply.

A reservoir should be built for the toilet water. Under no circumstances should the sewer water be allowed to enter any of the existing reservoirs of the county or the city of San Diego. At least keep it out of our Helix districts reservoirs. I thank you very much!

SHERMAN H. JOHNSON
Lemon Grove

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- Housing news
- Foreclosures
- Investment ideas
- New businesses
- Free classifieds

Tuesday Living

Commentary

Postal Service out of control

by Dick Dellinger

Regarding your editorial applauding the U.S. Postal Service ["Stamp of Approval," Jan. 21 issue]:

How big is the Postal Service monopoly on first-class mail? Consider that when the first-class stamp increased a penny to 33-cents, that means another billion dollars in annual revenue to the Postal Service.

The captive customers have no place to go. It is illegal to mail a regular letter any other way than via first-class mail.

You may not know that, but Postal Service executives sure do and they are milking it for all it's worth.

Worst of all, our current system of oversight of the country's largest monopoly allows the Postal Service to run roughshod and continue driving up first-class revenue when there is absolutely no need.

You know something is wrong when Congress voted 393-12 to demand no increase in first-class stamps but the Postal Service Board of Governors ignores them and approves the increase anyway.

Our representatives were reacting to a litany of events that cast a glaring spotlight on the Postal Service's gluttonous appetite for our money despite four years of record profits and an appalling lack of accountability on current spending.

Included in the infamous series were:

- Millions of dollars spent on advertising for the first class mail monopoly.
- More marketing dollars spent sponsoring a bike team in the Tour de France with a mostly European audience.
- More than $5 billion in profit over four years for the "break even" USPS.
- A cheating scandal that showed how easy it is for postal employees to distort the new delivery test that alleges delivery rates are improving.
- An elegant retirement party for Postmaster General Marvin Runyon at spectacular Union Station with a final tab of more than $124,000. The check was picked up by postal customers.

Like an agency in search of a 12-step program, the Postal Service just can't seem to stop itself.

Since the governors approved the hike, the General Accounting Office has reported the Postal Service lost almost $85 million on new products that have nothing to do with delivering the mail and — despite this record — 900 postal executives received year-end bonuses that averaged $10,400!

Congress needs to stop playing the fool and grab this out-of-control bull by the horns.

First, final authority on first-class mail rates must be given to the independent Postal Rate Commission (PRC). The Postal Service acts with such impunity because it not only has a huge monopoly on first-class mail, it also is the final authority on what to charge!

Second, the PRC must be given subpoena power to get the information it needs out of an uncooperative Postal Service.

Given these big clubs to wield, the PRC could bring the now foreign concept of accountability down on the Postal Service and force the agency to make the on-time delivery of first class mail its top priority.

Last year, the Postal Service showed Congress the kind of respect most people reserve for Rodney Dangerfield. This year Congress can, and should, change the rules.

Then we would finally be on the way to a monopoly that is first class.

Dick Dellinger is chairman of the board of the Association of Retired Americans, which is a member of the Coalition to Make Our First Class Mail FIRST CLASS.

PG Perspectives

Navel oranges

by Phillip Giannangeli

As far as I know, it's a problem we in East County have yet to encounter: nude supermarket shopping. We have other problems, and some of them are pretty darn big too, but I bet you never thought you'd see "nude, shopping, and supermarket" stacked up against each other in a story — unless, of course, the story involved shucked corn or skinless chicken. Well, the folks of a community in Southern England are being faced with the touchy problem of shopping au naturel at their local supermarket and they are handling the whole situation with typical British understatement. I, of course, won't follow the vaunted example of British reserve but will, in the next few paragraphs, bare it all.

The exact details of this story are somewhat skimpy. That's because I heard the story on the radio at about 5:20 a.m. one morning a couple of weeks ago. At that time in the morning, some details get lost, others are not recalled fully, and for some I was laughing too hard to get them. To the best of my recollection, though, the following is the naked truth.

There is a supermarket in this small, Southern, English town. Nearby is a nudist colony. Are you getting the picture? The folks at the nudist colony apparently want to shop at the market, but they want to do so as they do almost everything else: that is, sans apparel. What's a supermarket to do?

The supermarket, trying to accommodate this group of shoppers, decided that it would reopen the store after closing time and allow this group to come in and shop to their heart's content. The news story I heard didn't indicate if this is ongoing or something that will happen in the future, but it did cite some potential problems. Their problems, along with some I've thought about — I've given this matter much thought since first hearing about it — follow.

When people are in the all-together, there's a lot of altogether considerations that don't come into play when people are not in the altogether. The news story lumped some of these considerations into the general category of sanitary concerns. I will of course spare you the graphics of such concerns, but I agree they must be factored in. So lets stipulate to the factoring in of the sanitary concerns and move on.

An issue that was not mentioned in the story but would certainly need to be considered is what to do about money, credit cards, or check books. And what about coupons? The courses I took long ago in anatomy didn't show any natural pockets on the human form that could hold any of these items. I guess nude shopping and the demands of cash/coupons will give a new definition to the fanny pack.

Shopping in the nude also has some other problems. Accidents. What happens if you're in the produce section and you accidentally get moisturized when one of those sprays to keep the veggies fresh starts up? What do you wipe with? Can't use a shirt tale or sleeve if you're not wearing one. And should you accidentally drop an item to the floor, what is the proper pick-up procedure? Some pretty gross visuals flash across my mind when I speculate about that kind of a problem.

Finally, and you knew this would be asked by certain groups in our society, what happens to shoplifters in such a work environment? Shouldn't their rights be protected too?

In noting the problems presented by nude shopping, one thing should be absolutely clear: the clientele in most supermarkets make our defeat of the British a couple of hundred years ago a glorious thing. Otherwise those Brits might be in a position to impose their will on us and there would be nude midnight shopping at Ralphs.

Reel thoughts

'Varsity Blues' wins hands down

by Betty Jo Tucker

Everyone knows participation in high school sports can build character and provide a positive energy outlet for teenagers. But when a coach becomes obsessed with winning, no matter what the cost, all members of the team suffer.

Just ask Jonathon Moxon (James Van Der Beek of "Dawson's Creek"), a second string quarterback in "Varsity Blues," Paramount's new coming-of-age football comedy.

Forced into a leadership position because of a debilitating injury to the star quarterback, Moxon comes into conflict with head coach Bud Kilmer (Jon Voight), an uncompromising man trying for a 23rd division title with his West Canaan (Texas) Coyotes.

In this entertaining exploration of how America's obsession with sports impacts teenage athletes, Voight pulls out all the stops with his convincing portrayal of an unscrupulous coach who has the entire town fooled. The Oscar-winning actor ("Coming Home") knows something about coaching. His father was a professional golfer and teacher.

"To be a good coach you have to be a great teacher in life," he explains in the production notes. "My character, Kilmer, has a talent for coaching and motivates his players, but he misuses his influence because of his anger."

James Van Der Beek (left), Jon Voight (center) and Ron Lester star in "Varsity Blues", a coming-of-age football comedy directed by Brian Robbins.

Director Brian Robbins ("Good Burger") wanted to capture the legendary intensity and importance of high school football in Texas, so he and producer Mike Tollin visited Austin and Houston to watch state play-off games.

"We were amazed at the crowds that turned out for these games," he exclaimed. "Forty-thousand people were at the Astrodome for a high school football game! It's unbelievable how swept up the state is in high school football."

To help recreate the excitement of these Friday night games, Mike Ellis was hired as the film's football coordinator. Ellis, who worked on "Jerry Maguire" and "The Waterboy," selected 40 of the best young West Texas players to back up the main actors on the field.

Even non-football fans will appreciate the impressive results and feel deeply involved in the game sequences.

An emphasis on strong language, sexuality, and teenage drinking weakens this otherwise excellent film. However, Van Der Beek's appealing portrayal of the reluctant hero gives young people a role model to emulate.

Filled with humorous situations, exciting football scenes and superb acting, "Varsity Blues" should find an enthusiastic cheering section in movie theaters.

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Letter to the Editor

Panic now and avoid the rush

Y2K panic is here and in certain cases it is warranted. If people close their eyes to the Y2K issue, it is the same as walking down a railroad track, seeing a train coming then closing your eyes and ignoring the train assuming it will not hit you.

Here are just a few things that the consumer or general public should be concerned with:

- Cars started being built with computer chips. Some of these chips could require date calculations.
- Phone systems are date intensive. While Ma 'Bell may have their systems ready, some third party providers may not.
- Gas pumps and microwaves may stop working.
- Basically, anything digital may have a problem. Anything truly mechanical would not have a problem.

While the immediate supplier may be Y2K compliant, their suppliers and the suppliers of raw materiel may not be. Current projections estimate that several small businesses will close their doors (without giving notice to customers) when the Y2K bug bites. This is because the cost of the fix outweighs capital expenditures and project profits.

Also, the USA is leaps and bounds ahead of other countries in preparing for Y2K. China just recently understood the implications. (They were originally under the assumption that because they use the Chinese calendar, that year 2000 does not apply. It was pointed out to them that almost all of their imports, exports and banking convert the Chinese calendar to the Gregorian calendar that we all use.)

This fact remains that Y2K is a real issue. How much it will effect an individual depends on the extent of technology they use. However, Y2K will effect us all.

ELDEN F. JONES II
Santee

M is for Mayor

Personal comments of Mayor Mary Sessom

January has indeed been stressful

I agree with your reporter's statement in the Lemon Twist last week that January has been a pretty stressful month. However, I wouldn't "stay clear of the chamber building cupola, and wear lots of drab clothing" just yet.

The stressful problems are being resolved. The City Council has met with Caltrans once a week for the last four weeks and we are still talking (that is good if one is dealing with Caltrans). The failure of our new remodel at City Hall to meet ADA requirements is not as bad as it first looked and, overall, the entire project is working as planned. (Please visit City Hall to judge for yourself).

The "feud," if there is one, between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department can't be handled by banging a couple of heads together. City staff and the entire City Council met at a special meeting called on Jan. 26 to gather facts and discuss the results.

The most stressful event of this entire month, of course, was getting locked out of City Hall when I came back from vacation. But Mary Shelley came to my rescue that Sunday and I now have a shiny, new key.

I am looking forward to 1999 for good things to happen in this city. After all, we got all our stressful things done with in January.

Community Notes

Heartland to hold awards dinner

The Heartland Human Relations and Fair Housing Association is having its annual awards dinner at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Lemon Grove Community Center, 3146 School Ln. in Lemon Grove.

This is a special event to give awards to people in the community who have made significant contributions and who have made a difference in the area of human relations.

A Chinese buffet and cake will be served and there will be entertainment for a cost of $5 (children under eight, free). Call Heartland at 460-2744 to RSVP by Tuesday.

Retired teachers to meet next week

The California Retired Teachers Association, East County Division #69, will meet from 9:30 p.m. for Social Hour and 10 p.m. for a short business meeting on Feb. 4 at the La Mesa Women's Club, 5220 Wilson Street, La Mesa. .

The Grupo Folklorico from the School of Performing Arts at Chula Vista High School will entertain, directed by Mr. Carlos Santoya, Cultural Awareness Facilitator. For more information, call 562-1774 or 469-2278.

Lemon Grove Fire Log

Jan. 1, 1999
2300 blk. Alton Pl. Gunshot/shooting victim.
6900 blk. San Miguel Ave. Single-engine response.
3500 blk. Grove St. Fall.
7900 blk. Palm St. Fall.

Jan. 2, 1999
1500 blk. El Prado Ave. Seizure.
7400 blk Broadway. Passing out.
7100 blk. Waite Dr. Assault victim.
New Jersey Ave./Broadway Ave. Traffic accident.
2600 blk. Glebe Rd. Diabetic problem.

Jan. 3, 1999
7000 blk. San Miguel Ave. Chest pains.
1600 blk. Skyline Dr. Traffic accident.
7900 blk. Mt. Vernon St. Chest pains.
Lemon Grove Wy./Grove St. Unknown medical.
7800 blk. Golden Ave. Person down.
1700 blk. Skyline Dr. Difficulty breathing.
2300 blk. Ravenwood Dr. Ringing alarms residential.

Jan. 4, 1999
4800 blk. New Ranch Rd. Residential structure fire.
8100 blk. Broadway Ave. Rectal bleeding.
2000 blk. Noble St. Possible stroke.
4300 blk. Pomona Ave. Residential structure fire.
7700 blk. Lansing Dr. Extinguished fire.
3200 blk. Main St. Evaluate for Sheriff's

Jan. 5, 1999
3200 blk. College Pl. Medical aid.
1500 blk. Larwood Rd. Residential structure fire.
Massachusetts Ave./Mt. Vernon St. Vehicle accident.
WB Hwy 94/Grove St. Vehicle accident freeway.
7900 blk. Palm St. Ringing alarms commercial.
3200 blk. College Pl. Chest pains.
7800 blk. Central Ave. Headache.

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WEATHER

The following information was provided by the National Weather Service.

		High	Low
January	18	71	55
January	19	65	51
January	20	61	53
January	21	68	54
January	22	72	44
January	23	75	53
January	24	70	49

Precipitation

January	20	0.17"
January	21	0.10"

The Lemon Grove Review

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Material can be sent via e-mail at the following address: ysemr@adnc.com

All materials must be received by the Monday preceding the date of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

Send all correspondence to: Forum Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

CNPA
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B Words

by Bob Burns

Skateboard facility could be risky business

You know a skateboard facility could accomplish dual things if all goes well. I would assume that our city attorney could provide the city with a hold harmless covenant to protect from liability problems.

I would think that the most risk would be to Caltrans in that it will be on their property, not Lemon Grove's, but it will be within the city limits, i.e.jurisdiction. It goes without saying that there must be absolutely no legal surprises in the ideas of public use of the facility.

I have asked the question before, and will again. Where are there other similar catch basins in Southern California and what has happened to them? Before any plan is adopted to do anything but have the basin collect water, the possible problems should be fully examined.

Visits to similar facilities would cost little and would certainly make a proper decision more assured. With all of the highways that we have in Southern California, and with all of the water that the impervious surfaces have caused to be runoff problems, there just has to be precedents to refer to.

My thoughts have to do with the amount of water that is not only present during a rainstorm, but the drainage that occurs during the dry periods. We have had no appreciable rain for many months now and yet I see water in the drainage ditches. The large cement flumes along Alvarado in Mission Valley, and the ditch along the trolley tracks in Encanto also has water.

I would imagine that water comes from various sources, not directly related to rain fall. But if the basin is never completely dry, then it would be a hazardous skateboard park. If the basin is either filled with water or is completely dry, then the two functions can co-exist. Is this what will happen, or will there always be some water if even a trickle, across the basin floor?

If the almighty Caltrans is to be forcing this sometime pond on our community, then so be it. However, let us not kid ourselves that a scheme such as a skateboard park will ameliorate the downside effects. Let us make sure that it will be all that is expected, and not a total pipedream with more trouble than it is worth.

A "park" has also been suggested around the basin itself, and it should be equally appraised with critical eye. Parks are little used and are a large financial burden to maintain. Again, where is there a park around a catch basin, as well as a skateboard park?

Lemon Grove Sheriff's Log

Jan. 8, 1999
3200 blk. Buena Vista. Residential burglary. $1,330 value.
7000 blk. Broadway. Grand theft. $275 value.

Jan. 10, 1999
1600 blk. Primera St. Stolen vehicle. $1,000 value.
8100 blk. Lemon Grove Way. Commercial burglary.$200 value.

Jan. 10 - 11, 1999
800 blk. Broadway. Grand theft. $5,000 value.

Jan. 11, 1999
8000 blk. Blossom Ln. Stolen vehicle. No value given.
7000 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. $160 value.

Jan.12, 1999
7500 blk. Broadway. Commercial burglary. $100 value.

Jan. 12 - 13, 1999
3400 blk. Harris St. Commercial burglary. $80 value.

Jan. 13, 1999
1900 blk. Ensenada St. Residential burglary.
7800 blk. Broadway. Commercial burglary. $250 value.

Jan. 14 - 15, 1999
2100 blk. Locke Pl. Residential burglary. $1,200 value.

Jan. 15, 1999
2100 blk. Eldora St. Residential burglary. $500 value.
7600 blk. Broadway. Grand theft. $600 value.
7400 blk. Daytona St. Burglary. $200 value.

Jan. 15 - 16, 1999
2000 blk. Noble St. Vehicle burglary. $620 value.
2000 blk. Noble. Vehicle burglary. $570 value.
7600 blk. Broadway. Grand theft. $6,500 value.
7500 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. $47 value.

Jan. 17, 1999
2600 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Shoplifting. $5 value.

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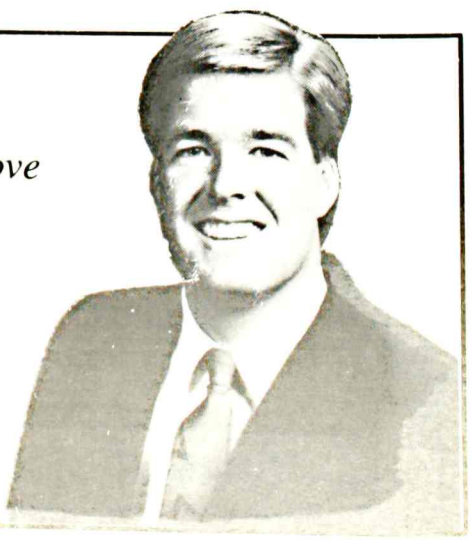

Renovation project rekindles team spirit for Helix alumni

by Jason Williams

Why would a group of people who haven't seen each other in years return to their high school campus to work on an old building they don't even own?

Whatever the reason, Helix High School alumni answered a call for help and renovated four classrooms in the General Education building, one of the original four buildings on campus.

The repair reunion took place during a work party which ran until the wee hours last weekend. The all-volunteer crew completed their first phase of renovation by Sunday afternoon.

Helix, which will turn 50 in 2002, boasts 88 classrooms for over 2,300 students.

East County Supervisor Dianne Jacob, Helix class of 1957, witnessed the problem first hand and quickly responded with a renovation force comprised of alumni.

"Last year I was invited to be a judge on the Senior Projects Board on campus. Looking around I was appalled at the condition," said Jacob.

According to Jacob, upon leaving the school, she met La Mesa City Councilwoman Donna Alm in the parking lot and together they hatched a plan, calling on alumni they knew.

They formed a networked telephoning tree of alumni, and met in Jacob's office to develop a working team.

The team met on seven occasions and eventually put the plan together for an $8,000 project.

The endeavor was funded primarily through donations and contributions of equipment and supplies.

"Something needed to be done. The change that needs to happen is really evident," said Jacob.

According to Jacob, the intent of the weekend work party was to create a better learning environment for the students and to motivate the district to pursue more funding for the upkeep of district schools.

Jacob said her years at Helix influenced where she is in her life today.

"I have very fond memories, both academically and with girls athletics. It really gave me a foundation for the future. The teachers gave me what I needed for the future," said Jacob.

There was some debate over whose responsibility it was to maintain the aging schools throughout the district.

"I think repairs should be shared by lots of people," said Helix Principal Dr. Doug Smith. "It is the community's job to maintain the schools — support the schools at a level that allows us to take care of them. It would be wrong for us to say it's the district's responsibility and leave it at that."

Regardless of who's responsibility it actually was, the alumni rose to the occasion and came to the aid of their decrepit campus.

"We're just going to do it," said Jacob. "All on our own. The fastest way to do it, is to do it ourselves."

Alumni refinished doors and floors, cleaned windows, cut-in and painted walls and ceilings, renovated cabinets and performed a variety of tasks, led by their fellow alumni who have become experts through their occupations.

Kate Williams, class of 1967, said the atmosphere of the campus contributed to her becoming a teacher in Santee.

"There was a lot of team type spirit. The feeling that if you go here you are a winner," said Williams.

Among the 40 or so alumni in attendance was NBA Hall of Famer, Bill Walton, class of 1970. He attributes much of his success to his years at Helix.

"That's why it's so special to come back. Helix laid the foundation - friends and experiences which were instrumental in the over-all success of my life," said Walton.

"We all want Helix to remain the number one school in San Diego County. We'll do whatever it takes because of our pride in the school," said Walton.

Worship Directory

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
8086 BROADWAY, LEMON GROVE, CA 91945
PASTOR MSGR. EDWARD BROCKHAUS
1950 - 1989
466-3209
Mass Schedule:
Saturday Evening: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 7, 8:30 & 10 a.m. (English) 11:30 a.m. (Spanish)
5:30 p.m. (English), 7 p.m. (Spanish)

LEMON GROVE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2770 Glebe Road • Lemon Grove
Edward Pettis, Pastor
Sunday Worship & Church School 10:15 a.m.

Lemon Grove Assembly of God
Currently using the
Mount Miguel High School at
1800 Sweetwater Road
Worship Service & Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Nursery & Child Care provided
Pastor Jim Reed 697-7770

LEMON GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Loving God - Living Christ
Corner Skyline and Alton Drive
John R. Embree, Pastor
Telephone: 465-7301
Worship Services:
Traditional 9 a.m. Contemporary 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Lemon Grove Christian Church
6970 San Miguel Ave.
Lemon Grove
(2 Blocks West of Mass.)
Myron Wells
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Excellent Youth Ministry, Preschool and Daycare
Worship: Sunday at 9:00 am & 10:40 am • Saturday at 6:00 pm
Church: 465-1888 • Preschool: 465-1881

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
TS No. 19989137700803 Loan No.: 1512232
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED DECEMBER 2, 1993 UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On February 4, 1999 at 10:00 AM, Lonestar Mortgagee Services, L.L.C., as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded December 15, 1993, as Instrument No. 1993-0846676, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Diego County, State of California. Executed by Paul L. Binns, an unmarried man. Will Sell at Public Auction to Highest Bidder for Cash or Cashier's check (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States) At the south entrance to the County Courthouse at 220 West Broadway, San Diego, CA (Note: Cashier's check(s) must be made payable to Lonestar Mortgagee Services, L.L.C. all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: As more fully described in the above mentioned Deed of Trust. APN #576-331-03-00
The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1606 San Altos Place Lemon Grove California 91945. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust.
The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: $137,496.04
The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.
Date: 01/07/1999 Lonestar Mortgagee Services, L.L.C., as Trustee
Bruce Cocklin, Authorized Signature
For Trustee's Sale Information Please Call 916-974-6099 Lonestar Mortgagee Services, L.L.C. 15000 Surveyor Boulevard, Suite 250 Addison, Texas 75001
Lonestar Mortgagee Services, L.L.C. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Pub: 01/14/99, 01/21/99, 01/28/99
CNS1674190

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/27/97. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. T.S.# 48600-ZG14. NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST. Notice is hereby given that Consolidated Reconveyance Company, A Division of Chicago Title Insurance Company as trustee, or successor trustee, or substituted trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by James M. Scarboro, a widower and recorded on 10-31-97 as inst.# 1997-0854717 of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Diego County, California and pursuant to the Notice of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded on 04-13-98 as inst.# 98-205730 of said Official Records, will Sell on 02-04-99 at 11:00 a.m. At the south entrance to the County Courthouse, 220 West Broadway, San Diego, CA at public auction to the highest bidder for cash payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: More fully described in said Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1714 Primera Street, Lemon Grove, CA. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed, advances thereunder, with interest as provided therein, and the unpaid principal of the note secured by said deed with interest thereon as provided in said Note, fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. This sale does not include the right to obtain any accrued rents that are collateral for the obligations secured by the deed of trust, whether or not sequestered, collected or in the possession of a receiver, debtor-in-possession, the beneficiary or any other person. Dated: 12/31/98. Consolidated Reconveyance Company, A division of Chicago Title Insurance Co. *24011 Ventura Blvd., 2nd floor Calabasas, CA 91302 (818) 876-8430 By: A. Saucedo Trustee Sale Officer Authorized Signor.* LPP 21487 01/14, 01/21, & 01/28/99

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
Assigned File No 99000202
The Name of the Business
DUECE UNO COMMICATIONS
located at 7046 Broadway #117 in Lemon Grove, CA 91945 is hereby registered by the following owner:
JACKSON L. KINCAID
1303 CORONADO AVE.
SPRING VALLEY, CA 91977
This business is conducted by an Individual
The transaction of business began on 1-5-99
Signature of Registrant
JACKSON KINCAID
This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/ County Clerk of San Diego County on JAN 05, 1999
Lemon Grove Review
Jan 14, 21, 28 & Feb 4, 1999

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. 1012948-01 APN. 576-750-12-00 TRA: 15012 Loan No. Hutchinson REF. Kenneth R. Anderson IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED March 21, 1991. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On February 4, 1999, at 10:00 A.M., Cal-Western Reconveyance Corp., a California corporation, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded March 29, 1991, as inst. No. 1991-0142675, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Diego County, State of California, executed by Robert Hutchinson and Kathleen Hutchinson, husband and wife, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, at the south entrance to the County Courthouse, 220 West Broadway, San Diego, CA, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California, described as: More fully described in said Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1826 Denstone Place, Lemon Grove, CA 91945. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: $103,004.48. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed, advances thereunder, with interest as provided therein, and the unpaid principal of the note secured by said deed with interest thereon, as provided in said Note, fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. This sale does not include the right to obtain any accrued rents that are collateral for the obligations secured by the deed of trust, whether or not sequestered, collected or in the possession of a receiver, debtor-in-possession, the beneficiary or any other person. Dated: 12/31/98. Consolidated Reconveyance Company, A division of Chicago Title Insurance Co. *24011 Ventura Blvd., 2nd floor Calabasas, CA 91302 (818) 876-8430 By: A. Saucedo Trustee Sale Officer Authorized Signor.* LPP 21487 01/14, 01/21, & 01/28/99

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
T.S. No. GM-42623-C
Loan No. 450467287
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 6/18/96. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.
A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale.
TRUSTOR: BRUCE L. BAUMANN AND RITA JO BAUMANN, husband and wife
Duly Appointed Trustee: EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC.
Recorded 6/26/96 as Instrument No. 1996-0320503 in Book, page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of SAN DIEGO County, California.
Date of Sale: 2/11/99 at 12:00 PM
Place of Sale: AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CITY HALL EAST, 300 NORTH COAST HIGHWAY, OCEANSIDE, CA
Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $111,776.47
Street Address or other common designation of real property:
2585 CYPRESS AVENUE
LEMON GROVE, California 91945-2909 APN #: 480-502-08-00
The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale.
Date: January 15, 1999
EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC.
15455 SAN FERNANDO MISSION BLVD.
SUITE #208
MISSION HILLS, CA 91345
(818) 361-6998
KATHLEEN GOWEN
1/21/99, 1/28/99, 2/4/99
LEMON GROVE REVIEW

Trustee Sale No. 990000083 Loan No. 3255[illegible] Title Order No. 362[illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/[illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under a deed of trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: [illegible] Duly Appointed Trustee: [illegible] Recorded [illegible] as Instrument No. [illegible] of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of [illegible] County, California. Date of Sale: [illegible] at [illegible] Place of Sale: [illegible] Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: [illegible] Street Address or other common designation of real property: [illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Date: [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

THE BRIGHTER VIEW

Attila the Dad

by Steven Saint

My 12-year-old son thinks he has the worst parents in the neighborhood. We are so mean and cruel and worry about little everything. None of his friends have parents so worked up about modern life.

For instance, none of his friends' parents worry about them watching PG-13 or R-rated movies. His friends get to watch all the sex and violence they want. We're the only ones who pay any attention to that rating stuff.

We're also the only family in the world without a Playstation or Nintendo 96. All the other kids spend countless hours in front of their video games, blowing away the enemy complete with digital blood and guts. Their parents even let them play the "adult" versions of these games, in which the sex and violence are bumped up a few levels.

We're just sticks in the mud. We want to know families before letting our kids go to the houses or sleep over. No other parents are so strict. Other kids can eat all the junk food and sugar they want. They can endanger their lives, as well, with no parental obstruction.

They can play football no matter how many kids get injured. In fact, one parent graduated from Mount Miguel High School the same year I did and knows Kip Hayes, the fellow who was paralyzed playing football. He swears Kip has no regrets and football is a relatively safe sport, leading me to conclude they've all played too much without helmets.

Their kids engage in a myriad of other safe sports, all of which require helmets and protective gear. They skateboard off flights of stairs and grind bike pegs on walls. Their parents cheerfully take them to the emergency room when they break their fingers, arms and ankles, and when the casts come off, send them out to do it all again.

Living in a sea of sensible kids and wise parents makes my 12-year-old feel like an island of slavery, indeed. And to top it off, we don't buy anything on credit, so everything he wants has to wait.

One day my son may appreciate the concern we have for him. One day he'll have to raise his kids in a society we barely dare to imagine. Until, then, just call me Attila the Dad.

Crime scene at the Memory Diner

Behind every famous detective there's a little forensic science. A traveling exhibit entitled, "Whodunit? The Science of Solving Crime," opens tomorrow at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park. Sponsored by National University, the exhibit offers a glimpse at the world of criminology, including DNA profiling, fingerprinting and forensic anthropology. Collect, analyze and synthesize data to deduce the innocence or guilt of various suspects. Compare your findings with the case studies of historic crimes and profiles of real forensic professionals. The truly serious sleuth can also investigate National University's master's degree program in forensic science, the only program of its kind in California.

EPA looking for local Earth Day heroes

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging citizens in California to nominate a friend, peer organization for this year's Earth Day Environmental Awards Program.

The program seeks to recognize individuals and groups outside of the U.S. EPA who went beyond the call of duty to improve the environment in 1998.

In particular, the U.S. EPA wants to acknowledge individuals and groups that reach across non-traditional lines to build collaborative successes.

Anyone can be nominated, such as scientists, teachers, journalists, citizen activists, young people, organizations, business representatives, public officials and others committed to preserving and nurturing our natural surroundings.

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- promotion of innovative ideas, techniques, and/or technologies
- ability to address an environmental problem or need
- accomplishment of stated goals
- ability of the program/activity to be replicated or widely shared
- collaboration with others
- clarity and effectiveness of the presentation
- long term benefits for the environment

Nomination forms must be filled out and returned to the U.S. EPA Region 9 Office no later than March. An EPA panel will review all of the applications and select this year's finalists by late March.

Winners will then be recognized at a ceremony to be held in the Bay Area on Earth Day, April 22.

For a copy of the nomination form, contact the Public Information Center at (415)744-1500 or visit the EPA Region 9 Web site beginning next week at http://www.epa.gov/region09, and click on What's New.

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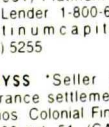
589-8956

PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LORA



460-5612

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REALTOR
Realty World - Pro Consultants

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Two bedroom, one bath 1,000 sq. ft. Large bedrooms, bright & sunny inside. Knotty pine family rm. has fireplace, fruit trees.
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Wild East County

Winter Break

by Greg Eichelberger

No trip to our neck of the woods could be complete without a stop at a few of this area's more popular camping and hiking spots. In fact, those who like "roughing it," will find no better places to practice this craft than in East County.

Closest to home is Lake Jennings Park, located six miles east of El Cajon, off of Highway 8, next to the San Vicente Reservoir.

This is the perfect place to take in a day of fishing, or to just spend a quiet weekend in somewhat secluded surroundings. Sites are available from $10 to $16 per night and range from tent lots to full-service RV facilities.

For more information, call 443-2510.

Folks who just want a small jaunt can hike through Mission Trails Park in Santee, or even Cowles Mountain in La Mesa for an invigorating climb. They're both freeway close and won't put a dent in one's bank account.

For those longing for adventures in a bit more remote atmosphere, there is Cuyamaca (the word means "rain above or below" in the language of the Diegueno Indians) Rancho State Park. This area, with all of its satellite campgrounds and thousands of individual campsites, comprises over 29,000 acres, and is the fourth largest state park in California.

Within these boundries lie mountain peaks, the dense Cleveland National Forest, open meadows, large lakes, and small streams. There are also over 110 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, where visitors can view not only the bucolic vistas and lush plant life, but a myriad of protected species as well.

Critters such as the southern mule deer, foxes, racoons, squirrels, bobcats, coyotes, and (occasionally) cougars, with over 150 varieties of birds, roam free amidsts the thousands of tourists who pour into this park each year.

Many of them also drive to the top of Mount Palomar to tour the famous observatory, home to what used to be the largest reflection telescope in the world.

This tract of land is located off of State Highway 79, nine miles from the I-8 exit. Call 579-1334 for details.

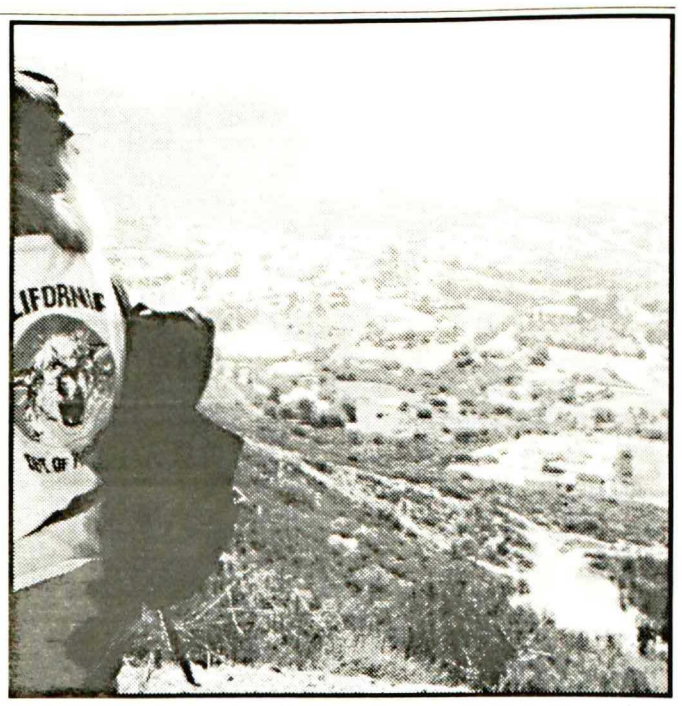
And, of course, no one should visit the East County without a respite at the famous Anza-Borrego State Park, which can be reached by taking Highway 8 east from Julian.

Billing itself as one of the "last best places on Earth," this desert area boasts 14 campgrounds, horseback-riding trails, Junior Ranger activities, nature hikes, guided tours, fossil expeditions, stargazing and campfire programs, and some of the best scenery available to mere mortals. In fact, it's a photographer's dream.

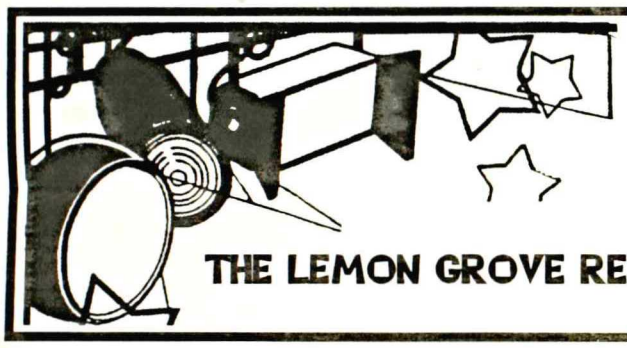
Each spring at Borrego, just the right combination of sun, wind, rain, and temperature sets the stage for one of the most unique and stunning events in Mother Nature's realm - the annual blooming of the desert flowers. No one knows for sure the exact moment this will happen, but between late February and March, amazed onlookers can view blossoms caressing the arid sands in a breath-taking display of natural beauty at its finest.

Plus, if rainfall has been sufficient, the show is especially spectacular. For details, call the park at 767-5311.

So get out from behind that television set and leave the rodeos and stock car races behind for a few days. You'll soon discover that, surrounded by such rural serenity and pleasantness as we are, this truly is the best place to live in San Diego County.



The wild meets the urban fringe as close as McGinty Mountain in Jamul. Just don't feed the state field biologists. *Photo by Steven Saint*



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